

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES MANAGEMENT UNIT
REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTEREST

THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DESIRES TO ENGAGE QUALIFIED PRIVATE CONSULTING FIRMS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSISTING THE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS UNIT HUMAN ENVIRONMENT SECTION STAFF IN THE PLANNING PROCESS BY PROVIDING TRAFFIC NOISE AND AIR QUALITY SERVICES FOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS STATEWIDE:

The primary firm shall be Pre-qualified to perform services for the Project Development and Environmental Analysis Unit (Human Environment Section) in two or more of the below referenced work codes. **No sub-consultants are permitted.** A minimum of two of the following work codes are required:

- Air Quality Analysis- 00005
- Traffic Noise Analysis- 00253
- Quantitative Mobile Source Air Toxics (MSAT) Analysis- 00439
- Quantitative Particulate Matter (PM) Analysis- 00440
- Design Noise Report -00441

AIR QUALITY ANALYSIS AND TRAFFIC NOISE ANALYSIS SERVICES STATEWIDE

The Scope of Work consists of assisting the Project Development and Environmental Analysis Unit - Human Environment Section staff in the completion of Preliminary Traffic Noise Analyses, Design Noise Reports, Project-Level Air Quality Analyses, and both qualitative and quantitative Mobile Source Air Toxics and Particulate Matter Analyses, as well as other tasks related to traffic noise and project-level air quality as needed. All studies and reports will comply with applicable state and federal rules, regulations, policies and guidance as they pertain to traffic noise and project-level air quality investigations and reporting. Additional work may involve participation in both formal and informal public and private meetings, workshops and hearings.

All traffic noise modelers must provide evidence of having successfully completed formal Traffic Noise Model (TNM®) training. All reviewers of traffic noise models and reporting must provide evidence of having either 1) successfully completed formal Traffic Noise Model (TNM®) training or 2) successfully completed the National Highway Institute Highway Traffic Noise Course. Additionally, firms that respond to this Request for Letters of Interest expressly acknowledge that their applicable staff has previously completed traffic noise analyses utilizing TNM2.5® software and that they maintain staff capable of performing and/or assisting noise barrier design and reporting utilizing MicroStation® and ArcGIS® software.

All air quality modelers and reviewers must provide evidence that they have either 1) successfully completed formal training for Motor Vehicle Emission Simulator (MOVES)

software preferably MOVES 2010b or 2) successfully completed project-level air quality analysis utilizing MOVES software. Additionally, firms that respond to this Request for Letters of Interest expressly acknowledge that their applicable staff has previously completed project-level air quality analyses using CAL3QHC/ CAL3QHCR, MOBILE6 and EMIT software.

Please indicate in the subject line of your cover letter which work code(s) you are requesting.

Please include the work code on the RS-2 forms.

Submittals to this Request for Letters of Interest must include a list of the firm's most recent work in each of the five types of reports noted in the above Scope of Work for which the firm wishes to be considered. The client for whom the work was completed and a contact for each client is required if the client is any entity other than the NC Department of Transportation. Firms do not have to demonstrate capabilities in all five above disciplines of traffic noise and project-level air quality analyses for selection consideration.

This will be an open-ended contract. The method of payment will be project specific on either a cost plus fixed fee or lump sum basis. The work will be performed on various projects throughout the State and will be identified on an as needed basis; the same degree of assistance will not be required on all projects. The duration of the contract will be for two years.

Any firm wishing to be considered must be properly registered with the Office of the Secretary of State and with the North Carolina Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors. Any firm proposing to use corporate subsidiaries or subcontractors must include a statement that these companies are properly registered with the North Carolina Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors and/or the NC Board for Licensing of Geologists. The Engineers performing the work and in responsible charge of the work must be registered Professional Engineers in the State of North Carolina and must have a good ethical and professional standing. It will be the responsibility of the selected private firm to verify the registration of any corporate subsidiary or subcontractor prior to submitting a Letter of Interest. The firm must have the financial ability to undertake the work and assume the liability. The selected firm(s) will be required to furnish proof of Professional Liability insurance coverage in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000. The firm(s) must have an adequate accounting system to identify costs chargeable to the project.

SMALL PROFESSIONAL SERVICE FIRM (SPSF) PARTICIPATION

The Department encourages the use of Small Professional Services Firms (SPSF). **(No subconsultants permitted)** Small businesses determined to be eligible for participation in the SPSF program are those meeting size standards defined by Small Business Administration (SBA) regulations, 13 CFR Part 121 in Sector 54 under the North

American Industrial Classification System (NAICS). The SPSF program is a race, ethnicity, and gender neutral program designed to increase the availability of contracting opportunities for small businesses on federal, state or locally funded contracts. SPSF participation is not contingent upon the funding source.

The Firm, at the time the Letter of Interest is submitted, shall submit a listing of all known SPSF firms that will participate in the performance of the identified work. The participation shall be submitted on the Department's Subconsultant Form RS-2. RS-2 forms may be accessed on the website at <https://apps.dot.state.nc.us/quickfind/forms/Default.aspx>.

The SPSF must be prequalified with the Department to perform the work for which they are listed.

Real-time information about firms doing business with the Department and firms that are SPSF certified through the Contractual Services Unit is available in the Directory of Transportation Firms. The Directory can be accessed by the link on the Department's homepage or by entering <https://apps.dot.state.nc.us/vendor/directory/> in the address bar of your web browser.

The listing of an individual firm in the Department's directory shall not be construed as an endorsement of the firm.

PREQUALIFICATION

The Department maintains on file the qualifications and key personnel for each approved discipline, as well as any required samples of work. Each year on the anniversary date of the company, the firm shall renew their prequalified disciplines. If your firm has not renewed its application as required by your anniversary date or if your firm is not currently prequalified, please submit an application to the Department **prior** to submittal of your letter of interest. An application may be accessed at <https://apps03.dot.state.nc.us/vendor/prequal>. Having this data on file with the Department eliminates the need to resubmit this data with each letter of interest.

Even though specific DBE/MBE/WBE goals are not required for this project, the Department of Transportation is committed to providing opportunity for small and disadvantaged businesses to perform on its contracts through established Department goals. The Firm, subconsultant and subfirm shall not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, age, disability or sex in the performance of this contract.

EVALUATION

All prequalified firms who submit responsive letters of interest will be considered.

The evaluation of firms submitting letters of interest for this project will be based on the following considerations and their respective weights:

1. The relative experience and past performance on any previous contracts with the North Carolina Department of Transportation and/or other state Departments of Transportation; 50%
2. The firm's knowledge, experience and staff to perform the type of work required. 50%

After reviewing qualifications, if firms are equal on the evaluation review, then those qualified firms with proposed SPSF participation will be given priority consideration.

FORMAT FOR SUBMISSION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES MANAGEMENT UNIT LETTER OF INTEREST

All letters of interest are limited to fifteen(15) pages (RS-2 forms are not included in the page count) inclusive of the cover sheet, and shall be typed on 8 1/2" x 11" sheets, single spaced, one sided. **ONLY ELECTRONIC LETTERS OF INTEREST WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Letters of interest containing more than fifteen (15) pages will not be considered.

Letters of Interest should be submitted in .pdf format using software such as Adobe, CutePDF PDF Writer, DocuDesk deskPDF, etc.

One copy of the Letter of Interest should be sent through NCDOT's FTS system **as a .pdf file:** psmu-411@ncdot.gov . The FTS system will send you an electronic receipt when your LOI is downloaded to PSMU's server. **Paper copies are not required.** The subject line should contain the Firm's Name, and "LOI for 2015 Air Quality and Traffic Noise LSA".

If an interested firm does not have an FTS account they should send a request through e-mail to psmu-411@ncdot.gov . A response will be sent via the FTS system that will provide a login username, password, and login procedures.

SECTION I - COVER/INTRODUCTORY LETTER

The introductory letter should be addressed to Mr. Scott D. Blevins, P.E., Manager of the Professional Services Management Unit. Said letter is limited to two (2) pages and should contain the following elements of information:

- Expression of firm's interest in the work;
- Statement of whether firm is on register;
- Date of most recent private engineering firm prequalification;
- Statement regarding firms possible conflict of interest for the work; and
- Summation of information contained in the letter of interest **including an email address and telephone number for the firm's contact person.**

SECTION II - EVALUATION FACTORS

This section is limited to seven (7) pages and should contain information regarding evaluation and other factors listed in the advertisement such as:

- Identify personnel qualifications and experience as related to this work;
- Unique qualifications of key team members;
- Identify type and location of similar work performed within last seven (7) years;
- Understanding of approach; and
- Any innovative approaches to be used;

Note: If a project team encounters personnel changes, or any other changes of significance dealing with the company, NCDOT should be notified immediately.

SECTION III - SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

This section is limited to six (6) pages and should contain the following information:

- Capacity Chart/Graph (available work force);
- Organizational chart indicating personnel to be assigned by discipline;

- Resumes of key personnel;
- Names, classifications, and location of the firm's North Carolina employees and resources to be assigned to the advertised work; and
- Other information.

APPENDICES-

CONSULTANT CERTIFICATION FORM RS-2

Completed Form RS-2 forms SHALL be submitted with the firm's letter of interest.

This section is limited to the number of pages required to provide the requested information.

Submit Form RS-2 forms for the following:

- Prime Consultant firm (Prime Consultant Form RS-2 Rev 1/14/08)

Complete and **sign** each Form RS-2 (instructions are listed on the form). **Please include the work codes on the RS-2 forms.**

The required forms are available at:

<https://apps.dot.state.nc.us/quickfind/forms/Default.aspx>.

Private consulting firms are invited to have letters of interest for furnishing air quality and traffic noise services **FTS-ed** to the Professional Services Management Unit by **12:00 p.m. on December 17, 2014. Letters of interest received after this deadline will not be considered.**

Firms submitting letters of interest are encouraged to carefully check them for conformance to the requirements stated above. If letters of interest do not meet ALL of these requirements, or if they are sent by any means other than NCDOT's FTS system, or to any address other than psmu-411@ncdot.gov they will be disqualified. No exception will be granted.

Any/all questions concerning the advertisement or scope of work should be directed to Scott Blevins, PE, at sblevins@ncdot.gov or by telephone at 919-707-7132.

If you feel information provided is inadequate to submit a letter of interest, please contact Mr. Blevins.

The firm(s) selected will be notified by **January 15, 2015**. Notification will not be sent to firms not selected.

The firm(s) selected will be listed on the Internet at <https://connect.ncdot.gov/letting/Pages/Private-Engineering-Firm-Advertisements-.aspx> by **January 16, 2015**.